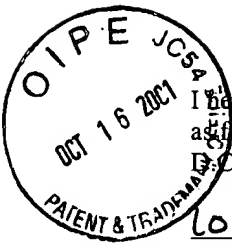


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Patricia K. Ammann
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Houghton et al.

Serial No.: 09/728,423

Group Art Unit: unassigned

Filing Date: December 1, 2000

Examiner: unassigned

Title: ELICITING HCV-SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is an Information Disclosure Statement, including a Form PTO-1449 and copies of the cited references. It is believed that no fee is due.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.21 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-1648.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct 9, 2001

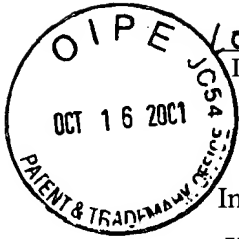
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The information listed below may be material to the examination of the above-identified application. Copies of the information and completed PTO-1449 forms are submitted herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to make this information of official record in the application. The information includes:

- United States Patent No. 6,121,020 issued September 19, 2000 to Selby et al.;
- International Publication No. WO 95/04301 published February 9, 1995;
- International Publication No. WO 96/05513 published February 22, 1996;
- Alter et al., "The Natural History of Community Acquired Hepatitis C in the United States," *N. Engl. J. Med.* 327:1899-1905 (1992);
- Choo et al., "Genetic Organization and Diversity of the Hepatitis C Virus," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 88:2451-2455 (1991);
- Forns et al., "DNA Immunization of Mice and Macaques with Plasmids Encoding Hepatitis C Virus Envelope E2 Protein Expressed Intracellularly and on the Cell Surface," *Vaccine* 17:1992-2002 (1999);
- Fourmiller et al., "Expression of Noncovalent Hepatitis C Virus Envelope E1-E2 Complexes is Not Required for the Induction of Antibodies with Neutralizing Properties Following DNA Immunization," *J. Virology* 73:7497-75504 (1999);

- Inudoh et al., "Antigenicity of Hepatitis C Virus Envelope Proteins Expressed in Chinese Hamster Ovary Cells," *Vaccine* 14:1590-1596 (1996);
- Ishii et al., "High Titers of Antibodies Inhibiting the Binding of Envelope to Human Cells Correlate With Natural Resolution of Chronic Hepatitis C," *Hepatology* 28:1117-1120 (1998);
- Ralston et al., "Characterization of Hepatitis C Virus Envelope Glycoprotein Complexes Expressed by recombinant Vaccinia Viruses," *J. Virology* 67:6753-6761 (1993);
- Resnick and Koff, "Hepatitis C-Related Hepatocellular Carcinoma," *Arch. Intern. Med.* 153:1672-1677 (1993);
- Rosa et al., "A Quantitative Test to Estimate Neutralizing Antibodies to the Hepatitis C Virus: Cytofluorimetric Assessment of Envelope Glycoprotein 2 Binding to Target Cells," *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 93:1759 (1996);
- Seeff, "Natural History of Viral Hepatitis, Type C," *Gastrointest. Dis.* 6(1):20-27 (1995); and
- Spaete et al., "Characterization of the Hepatitis C Virus E2/NS1 Gene Product Expressed in Mammalian Cells, *Virology* 188:819-830 (1992).

This Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct 9, 2001

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